Losses on Unprofitable routes in Railways

†1037. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are suffering heavy losses because of running trains on unprofitable routes;

(b) if so, the total financial loss suffered during the last three years till the end of March, 1999;

(c) whether Government have identified the routes that are unprofitable;

(d) if so, the number of those routes, togetherwith the zones under which these routes fall and the average annual losses being suffered; and

(e) whether Government have estimated the expenditure and income from running trains on these routes; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The financial loss suffered during the last three years till the end of March, 1999 is as under:—

Year	Loss (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	292.57
1997-98	419.80
1998-99	377.16

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Details are given in the Annexure [*see* Appendix 189, Annexure No. *31*]

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.